

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

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Saturday, August 8, 2009

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

DEATH BLOW



In this photo taken on May 24, 2008, showing Pakistan's top Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud, left, as he talks to the media in Kotkai, a village in the Pakistani tribal area along the Afghan border. On Friday, Aug. 7, 2009.

See International News on Page 7

SPORTS NEWS

RED SACKED



Boston Red Sox's John Smoltz is taken out of the game by manager Terry Francona during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, in New York. See Sports Today on Page 10



Politicians parade to present party lists



ORANJESTAD – Yesterday, Aruba entered the last phase before the elections that will be held next month. Eight political parties turned in their lists of politicians to the Electoral Council from the Census office consisting of Robert Wever, Marco Christiaans, Florencio Wernet, Hubert Maduro, Jose Figaroa together with the Director Sharina Luidens. Each party leader was accompanied by hundreds and in some cases thousands of people all dressed in the party color to Havana Club to turn in their list.



Aruba elects on national level a legislature. The Estates (Staten) have 21 members, elected for a four year term by proportional representation. Aruba has a multi-party system, with two or three strong parties and a third party that is electorally successful.

The last general elections held in Aruba on 23 September 2005. They were won by the People's Electoral Movement, which took 11 of the 21 seats in the Estates.

Fitch Affirms Aruba's Foreign Currency IDR at 'BBB'; Outlook Stable

NEW YORK -- Fitch Ratings affirms Aruba's ratings as follows: Aruba's ratings are supported by its relatively high per capita income of over USD 20,000, its market friendly institutional framework, and its continued political and social stability. Aruba's external solvency ratios compare favorably with the 'BBB' median. Following last year's accumulation of international reserves, Aruba has turned into a net sovereign external creditor in 2009, which is in line with other low investment grade countries. Aruba's ratings incorporate the fact that Aruba is part of the Kingdom of Netherlands (rated 'AAA' by Fitch). Although Aruba gained status aparte in 1986, its strong links with the Dutch government and the implicit support for the island are unique. Aruba's rating is constrained by its narrow economy, lagging

growth performance, structural weaknesses in public finances including a high level of budgetary rigidity and a higher public debt burden (42% of gross domestic product [GDP]) compared to the 'BBB' median. 'Aruba's economy will contract by over 3% under the weight of the U.S. recession as around 70% of the tourists on the island originate from the U.S.', said Shelly Shetty, Senior Director in Fitch's Sovereign Group. The uncertain tourism prospects and global recession will also hurt foreign direct investment flows to Aruba. The government is providing some fiscal stimulus by increasing public investment this year; however, in Fitch's view, the government's ability to provide a sustained counter-cyclical boost is limited by the country's weaker fiscal profile compared with other rating peers. Aruba ran a fiscal surplus in

2008 as it obtained sizable transfers from the Dutch government as part of a settlement on certain hotel properties. The government prudently paid down debt and arrears to public sector entities, which resulted in a decline of general government debt to 42% of GDP in 2008 from 46.6% in 2007. However, fiscal fortunes will be reversed this year, as revenues suffer from recession and deflation while spending is stepped up to provide stimulus resulting in a renewed increase in the

public debt burden. Moreover, the losses in the national health scheme (AZV) as well as the deterioration of the financial profile of the public sector employee pension fund (APFA) are also increasing pressure on the fiscal accounts. Fitch forecasts that the fiscal deficit could reach above 4% of GDP this year and could remain at approximately 4% in 2010 owing to the lagged effect on tax revenues from economic recession.

Continued on page 6



CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE
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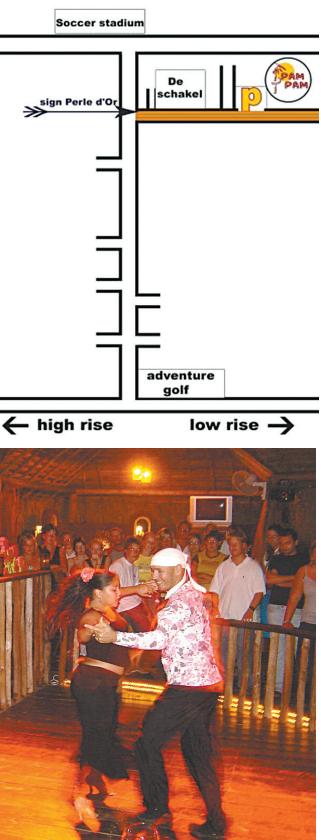


Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably priced snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among



other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone; 5877710 or 5932660 □



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Final top act at the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival

All-female band Anacaona from Cuba to perform



Cuban Orchestra Anacaona - 2009 Art of Jazz - Distillery District - Toronto, June 6, 2009

ORANJESTAD - Anacaona will be the final top act of the upcoming Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival. It is the name of the popular Cuban, all-female band that is undoubtedly going to leave a lasting impression on festival goers of the event, which takes place on September 4 and 5. Anacaona is the final act of the fabulous international and local line-up of the 2009 festival.

Named after an Indian queen, the band was founded in the 1930's in Havana by Cuchito Castro. Together with her sisters she formed a septet, playing son music, challenging this male dominated kind of music. Before long, however, all eleven sisters joined the band, and soon they started to enjoy international fame.

Earlier in the 1930's the political situation in Cuba led to university closings, forcing

Cuchito Castro to abandon her studies and plans to start a dental practice. Instead she formed a band with which she performed on the radio and at open-air cafés. The international break-through came in 1938 with concerts in New York and in Paris. Unfortunately, the Cuban Revolution caused the group to fade into obscurity until it resurfaced years later.

Anacaona was reorganized in 1988. Five Castro sisters left the band, which is now led by bassists Georgia and Doris Aguirre. Three CD's have come out: Ay! (1992), Como un Milagro (1995) and Lo que tu Esperebas (2000). Expectations are running sky high for the performance of this most unusual band at the 2009 Caribbean Jazz Festival.

Tickets for the festival are now on sale at MooMba Beach, Café the Plaza, Cliffix,



Cas di Cultura, Amazing Restaurant in San Nicolas or via the festival website www.caribbeanseajazz.com. Weekend passes are available.

SATURDAY'S LOBSTER NIGHT

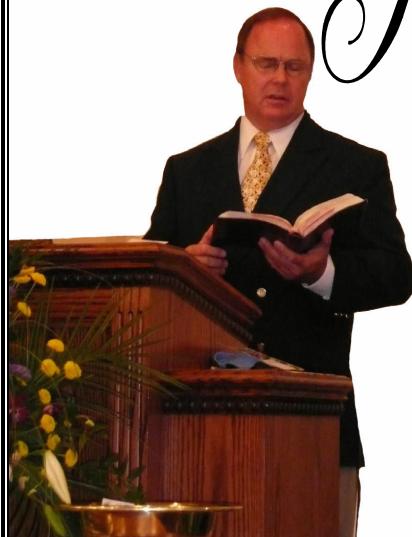


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"FAVI FUNDACION
CU VISION"

Shonie Carter To Headline in Aruba Versus Derrick Noble

UFC and MMA veteran "Mr. International" Shonie Carter (45-18-7) is still lighting up marquees and notching new stamps in his passport. MMA's pimp will headline Vendetta Fighting Championship's A Night of Vengeance in Aruba 5 September versus Minnesota Martial Arts Academy's "Eraser" Derrick Noble (24-12-1), a card that will also feature an eight-man light heavyweight tournament that includes Team Quest's Aaron Stark (8-4), "Juggernaut" Antwain Britt (9-2), and American Top Team's "Fury" Carmelo Marrero (9-3).

Carter is on a three-fight winning run that most recently included a split decision over George Lockhart (7-3) at Throwdown III in Salt Lake City last February.

One-time UFCer Noble came up short to "Mandingo" Antonio McKee (22-3-2) in a UD loss at MFC 20 in Enoch last February.

Britt is coming off an eight-second KO of American Top Team's "Samuray" Antonio Mendes (2-4) in the Shine Fights premier in Columbus last May. Mendes's teammate, Marrero, surely intends to exact some furious vengeance on Mendes's behalf. Marrero comes to the tournament from a UD loss to "Darth" Ryan Bader (7-0) at Fight Night 18 in Nashville April, Marrero's second, though brief stint in the Octagon. Fighters.com hopes Britt and Marrero get a crack at each other in round one.

IFL vet Stark tapped Rashad Brooks (2-5) in a rear naked choke at CATC 4 in Alabama last November. An eight-man tournament seems like a mouthful after a 10-month hiatus. "Sho Nuff The Master" Rodney Wallace (6-0) and Brazilian Top Team's Angelo Araujo (8-2) will also compete in the tournament while Gregory Milliard (1-1), Evan Nedd (0-0), Richard Hale (7-2-1), Ovince Saint Preux (3-2), and Xtreme Couture's Nick Fekete (1-0) will fight on the card. "El Guapo" Bas Rutten (28-4-1) will announce the card and soak up some of the white powder beaches of Aruba.



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Thursday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed
Friday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed
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Sunday \$10 buy-in \$1,500 (at 5pm)

(Tournaments are subject to change as per Management criteria)

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From Aruba to Barcelona

Gulfstream G450 Business Jet Sets Speed Record



ORANJESTAD — A large-cabin, long-range Gulfstream G450 business jet recently established a city-pair speed record between Queen Beatrix International Airport in Oranjestad, Aruba, and Barcelona International Airport in Spain. The aircraft flew 4,374 nautical miles in 8 hours, 56 minutes, at an average speed of Mach 0.80 with no headwinds. It landed with 3,900 pounds of fuel remaining. Piloting the G450 was Jaime Bahamon, international demonstration captain. Ross Oetjen, senior international demonstration captain, served as copilot. In addition to Flight Attendant Lori Starbuck, nine passengers were onboard the flight.

The National Aeronautic Association confirmed the flight as a U.S. record and forwarded the figures to the Federation Aeronautique International in Switzerland for approval as a world record.

Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), designs, develops, manufactures,

markets, services and supports the world's most technologically advanced business-jet aircraft. Gulfstream has produced some 1,800 aircraft for customers around the world since 1958. To meet the diverse transportation needs of the future, Gulfstream offers a comprehensive fleet of aircraft, comprising the wide-cabin, high-speed Gulfstream G150®; the large-cabin, mid-range Gulfstream G200®; the new large-cabin, mid-range Gulfstream G250®; the large-cabin, mid-range Gulfstream G350®; the large-cabin, long-range G450®; the large-cabin, ultra-long-range Gulfstream G500®; the large-cabin, ultra-long-range Gulfstream G550® and the ultra-large-cabin, ultra-long-range G650®. Gulfstream also offers aircraft ownership services via Gulfstream Financial Services Division and Gulfstream Pre-Owned Aircraft Sales®. The company employs approximately 9,000 people at seven major locations. We invite you to visit our Web site for more information and photos of Gulfstream aircraft at www.gulfstream.com.

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RBTT Bank gives back to the community



ORANJESTAD - Once again, the RBTT Bank of Aruba has proven itself to be the great supporter of Sports in Aruba. For the MVP's both from the junior and senior league, RBTT offered them a savings account with the amount of 100 Florin already in it.

Both Mrs. Edna Farro, President RBTT Bank Aruba NV and Mr. Pierre Rafini, RBTT Senior Manager Corporate & Commercial Banking gave their word of thanks to these two great athletes with their achievements. Both said that they happy and proud of these two teams to represent Aruba in the Latin America competition coming up.

In hopes they can bring back the title of champion to Aruba, when coming back from Taylor, Michigan.

Also present was the Marketing manager for the bank Mr. Robert Moons who also added that RBTT bank strongly believes in supporting out youth and their achievements in a positive way. The Staff and management of RBTT would like to wish them all the best in the upcoming competition in Taylor, Michigan.



17 arrested in Curacao in alleged drug ring

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao — Seventeen people were arrested in Curacao for alleged involvement in a drug trafficking ring with connections to Hezbollah, police in the Dutch Caribbean island said Wednesday.

The suspects detained Tuesday include four people from Lebanon and others from Curacao, Cuba, Venezuela and Colombia, police chief Carlos Casseres said at a news conference.

Some of the proceeds, funneled through informal Middle Eastern banks, went toward supporting groups linked to the militant Hezbollah organization in Lebanon, according to Casseres. The smuggling ring also allegedly forwarded requests from Lebanon for arms to be shipped from South America.

"We have been able to establish that this group has relations with international criminal organizations that have connections

with the Hezbollah," prosecutor Ludmila Vicento said.

Island officials said the U.S. and the Netherlands are helping them to investigate the alleged Hezbollah connection.

Two shipments of cocaine totaling 2,000 kilograms (4,400 pounds) have been seized from the ring in Curacao since the beginning of last year. The traffickers used cargo ships and speed boats to import the drugs from Colombia and Venezuela for shipment to Africa and beyond to Europe, according to Curacao authorities.

Several nations including the United States participated in the investigation leading to the arrests.

Authorities with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. consulate in Curacao said they could not immediately comment on the case.

Fitch

Continued from front page

Fiscal solvency ratios will erode and remain higher than the peer medians during the forecast period. However, a good debt service history, access to the Dutch government for financing in case of a sharp increase in market risk aversion and the government of Aruba's track record of taking corrective measures to preserve fiscal sustainability underpin the government's higher debt tolerance. Fitch believes that the next government will have to implement decisive measures to prevent

sustained fiscal deterioration in the context of anemic growth', added Shetty. Reform inertia has set in due to impending Parliamentary elections. Yet, reforms to the AZV and APFA would become necessary to preserve medium term fiscal sustainability. While the fiscal deficit will inch higher in 2009, Fitch does not foresee any significant financing issues. Local market liquidity remains high, and the government is financing part of the fiscal deficit by drawing down on deposits built up due to the Dutch transfers related to hotel properties last

year. In 2010, most of the maturing debt is owed in the local markets which should be easily rolled over. A sustained high deficit in 2010, however, may require the government to access international capital markets or seek additional loans from the Dutch government. On the external front, the current account deficit will increase and international reserves will decline in 2009 although the latter will remain near its historical peak. The exchange rate peg remains well-anchored and the island has not experienced any significant pressure on the currency or broader capital flight

in the current unfavorable environment. Moreover, while the banking sector's asset quality will deteriorate, the system is unlikely to need sovereign support. External solvency ratios are expected to deteriorate as well but are likely to broadly compare favorably against peer medians. Continued resilience in the face of the U.S. recession, a sustained reduction in public debt burden and progress on economic diversification would be positive for creditworthiness. Greater than expected deterioration in public debt dynamics owing to sustained fiscal deterioration and weaker economic performance would be viewed negatively. Inability to address the structural issues related to AZV and APFA could also pressure creditworthiness. Fitch's rating definitions and the terms of use of such ratings are available on the agency's public site, www.fitchratings.com. Published ratings, criteria and methodologies are available from this site, at all times. Fitch's code of conduct, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affiliate firewall, compliance and other relevant policies and procedures are also available from the 'Code of Conduct' section of this site.

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on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest

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Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



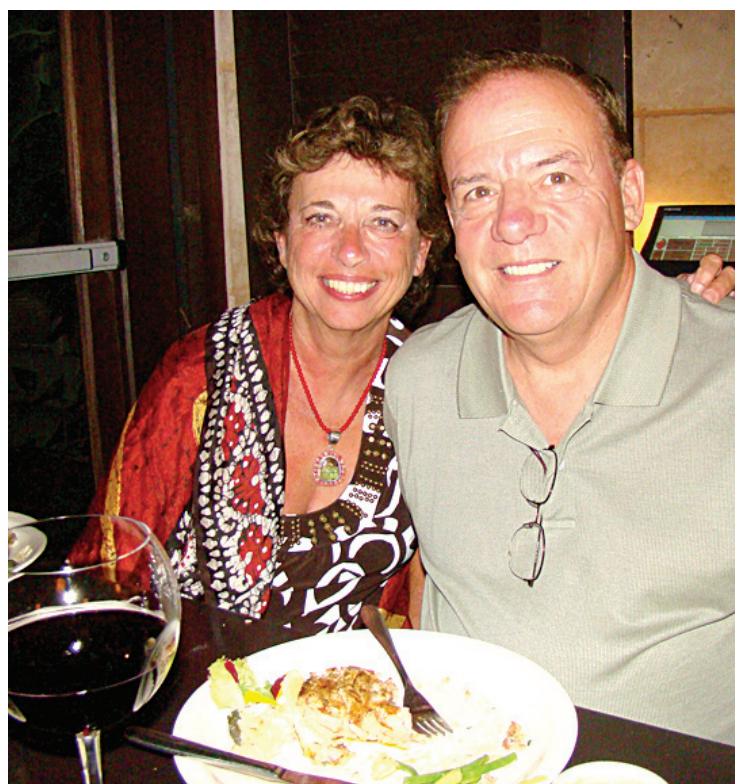
ORANJESTAD - The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating. The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95.**



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

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Reservation recommended

For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154



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PALM BEACH — Avid Pennsylvania fisherman Jack Fraught and his wife, Charlene, have been coming to Aruba for 31 years. Of course it's the fun in the sun they love the most, but Jack also loves to fish and goes out every year with local Captain Monty.

Jack and his wife also know where to go when they want to dine on the freshest fish—Aqua Grill.

The award-winning and critically-praised restaurant in Palm Beach prepares their seafood on a wood-burning grill in an open-view kitchen. Fresh catches come from the island's local fishermen, and other fresh delicacies, like live Maine lobster, are flown in daily.

Pictured here are Jack and Charlene with their son, Ryan, and his girlfriend, Abbey Williams, during a recent dinner at Aqua Grill.



Locals love Moby Dick's Restaurant



PALM BEACH — Rich and his son Justin of Rich's Car Wash love to eat at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant in the Paseo Herencia Mall. The duo is pictured out for a father-in-son dinner in their favorite booth enjoying all the favorite treasures of the sea and the unique ambience the restaurant has to offer. Favorites include freshly shucked oysters on the half shell and the famous Bloody Oyster, which is a fabulous combination of tomato juice, seafood, a splash of Tabasco and ice cold vodka. Crab Legs are a must at Moby Dick's and you're not allowed to leave Aruba without savoring a Banana Banana.



Papillon
RESTAURANT

Kitchen open every day from 5pm till 10.30pm. Early Bird from 5pm till 7pm.
All major credit cards accepted. Reservations recommended.
Papillon Restaurant @ The Village (across from Radisson),
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Email: reservations@papillonaruba.com Internet: www.papillonaruba.com

Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Early Bird

Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

Opening hours

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to www.papillonaruba.com.

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to
make reservations, please
call 586-4686. □



At the Aruba Marriott Resort as sunset

Allison & Traver exchange rings & vows at Sunset



PALM BEACH - Allison Kato & Traver Lentz exchanged rings and vows as the sun gently set into the sea last night on the beach at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. Rev. Geoffrey officiated the toes-in-the sand ceremony witnessed their family and friends.

After placing a ring on the others finger and reading their vows of commitment to one another, the couple said I do and then signed the official documents. The intimate ceremony ended with a champagne toast and the cutting of the wedding cake.

The beach blessing was coordinated by Desiree

Biker of the Aruba Marriott Resort and executed by her professional events team. Congratulations to Allison & Traver from Aruba Today and may you celebrate all your anniversaries at your home away from home Aruba.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

Aruba TODAY

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A GOP That Can Say No

Pat Buchanan

Creators Syndicate – Reports of the death of the Republican Party appear to have been premature.

Not since Sen. Bob Griffin derailed LBJ's scheme to replace Chief Justice Earl Warren with crony Abe Fortas, before Nixon got to the Oval Office, has the GOP defied this city and voted to reject a liberal judicial activist for the court.

In 1970, after revelations of scandal forced Fortas to resign, Rep. Gerald Ford moved to impeach "Wild Bill" Douglas on similar grounds. Then the fire went out — for 40 years. Meanwhile, Democrats trashed Republican nominees Clement Haynsworth, Harrold Carswell and Robert Bork, forced Reagan to withdraw Douglas Ginsburg, and made Clarence Thomas and Sam Alito run an Iroquois gauntlet.

Finally, yesterday, Senate Republicans, defying threats of an Hispanic backlash if they voted to reject the first Hispanic nominee, stood up and said no more EZ passes for any liberal judicial activist.

And this is only the most recent act of defiance by a party that, at long last, seems to have found its conservative compass and to be finding its way home.

Recuperation began when House Republicans stood beside Middle America and rejected the Bush-McCain-Kennedy-Clinton amnesty for illegal aliens, inflicting a humiliating defeat on the establishment.

The next sign of recovery was the decision of John McCain to damn the torpedoes and put Sarah Palin on the ticket. The smashing reception Palin received stunned mainstream media, vaulted McCain into the lead, and signaled the party what America wants it to become again.

The next act of defiance was the Republican rebellion against the \$700 billion bank bailout of last September. Though House resistance was swiftly broken, Republican instincts were subsequently proven right.

Next came rock-solid Republican opposition to the mother of all pig-outs, the Pelosi stimulus package. Not one Republican voted for it in the House and only three went over the hill in the Senate. How many Blue Dogs are back home bragging about having supported that beauty?

Then, yesterday, mirabile dictu, the Republican minority in the Senate voted four-to-one to send Sonia back to Greenwich Village. Wailed retiring Republican Sen. Mel Martinez of Florida, "We have allowed ideology to hold a preeminent role as opposed to qualifications. I find it very, very appalling."

The Cure That's Worse Than the Disease

Linda Chavez

Creators Syndicate – Senate negotiators moved a step closer to a comprehensive health care package this week, but the American public seems increasingly wary of what "reform" might mean. The latest polls show that the majority of Americans are satisfied with their own health insurance and are now worried that they might be the big losers once Washington starts meddling. And for all the talk about the uninsured in the current health debate, the most important constituency in determining whether a health care package passes Congress may turn out to be the happily insured.

According to the latest Rasmussen poll on the topic, 80 percent of Americans who already have health insurance rate their coverage as good or excellent. But it isn't just the Rasmussen poll that finds Americans generally happy with their own coverage. A similar poll by the Washington Post/ABC poll in June found that 81 percent of Americans were somewhat or very satisfied with their insurance, and an even higher proportion — 83 percent — felt the same way about the health care they receive. We sometimes forget that the overwhelming majority of Americans — over 250 million people — already have health insurance of one sort or another. Any "reform" that reduces the range of services and choices available to the already insured or taxes their benefits will leave this group worse off than they are now. Yet these are precisely the kinds of cost-saving measures Congress must pass if coverage is to be extended to approximately 15 percent of Americans who don't have health care coverage now.

As members of Congress return home for the August recess, they are likely to encounter

stiff opposition from constituents worried that health care reform will come at too dear a cost: higher taxes and worse care. Rowdy town hall meetings with elected officials in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Texas and other states have scared Democrats so much that they're now trying to blame the GOP for inciting the opposition.

President Obama's response has been to send out e-mails to 13 million people accusing those who question Democrats' health care plans of "filling the airwaves and the Internet with outrageous falsehoods to scare people into opposing change," and urging supporters "to fight lies with truth, and set the record straight."

But when it comes to truth-telling, it's the Democrats who have prevaricated. There is simply no way they can make good on their promise to extend health care benefits to over 40 million people who don't have it now without raising taxes, reducing benefits to those already insured, or costing American jobs.

The president's plan is estimated to cost \$1 trillion over 10 years. Senate negotiators are patting themselves on the back now because they've come up with cuts to the proposed plan that will save \$100 billion. But there are precious few government entitlement programs that ever end up coming in on budget. The likelihood is that whatever the projected cost of this program, it will end up costing more than we anticipate.

Instead of trying to force an entirely new health care financing system on Americans who are generally satisfied with the care they receive now, members of Congress should be concentrating on a limited plan to assist those truly in need of health care who don't have the means to obtain it now.

Whither Redbox? Hollywood studios are conflicted



By RYAN NAKASHIMA,
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES - Hollywood studios are split over Redbox, the \$1-per-night DVD rental kiosk company: They could supply it with cheap wholesale discs and ride its massive growth, or starve it in the hopes of preserving higher-priced purchases.

News Corp.'s 20th Century Fox fell on the side of starvation this week, joining General Electric Co.'s Universal Pictures, whose withholding of discs prompted a lawsuit.

On the flip side, Sony Corp.'s movie division signed a five-year deal just last month to supply Redbox. As part of the deal, Redbox would get discs

more cheaply but would have to destroy copies after their rental lives ended rather than sell them as "previously viewed" for \$7 apiece, as it had done in the past. Many other studios are taking a wait-and-see approach.

Although fans of the self-service vending machines won't notice a difference, the approach is crucial to both Redbox and the studios. Lack of studio supply forces Redbox to buy discs from regular retailers — just like an individual might go to Wal-Mart or Best Buy — cutting into profits and stifling its growth. The studios want to keep their consumers happy, but are concerned the cheap kiosks could erode demand for higher-priced DVD purchases, which

are the lifeblood of the industry. "I do not think this will destroy the film business, but it's certainly a major issue over the next few years, especially if it continues to grow at the rate it's growing," Pali Capital analyst Rich Greenfield said. "Whether or not the titles get sold at the end of it, \$1 a day does not help the entire movie industry."

On Wednesday, Fox ordered its wholesale distributors to stop supplying Redbox until 30 days after movie discs are released for sale. The policy takes effect Oct. 27.

The studio said the move was intent on "maintaining the quality image and value perception of Fox movies." News Corp. Chief Operating Officer Chase Carey said \$1 rentals were "grossly undervaluing" its product.

Like Fox, Universal Pictures insisted on a 45-day delay, which Redbox refused, and the studio cut off Redbox's supply last December. Redbox, a subsidiary of Bellevue, Wash.-based Coinstar Inc., sued to prevent Universal from stopping its supply, claiming antitrust laws had been broken. A federal judge in Delaware is expected to rule soon.

Redbox has 17,900 kiosks in the U.S. and plans 8,500 more

this year. Netflix Inc. CEO Reed Hastings has said Redbox and other low-cost kiosk renters such as DVDPay Inc. would be the biggest competitors to his mail-order DVD rental company by year's end.

Redbox President Mitch Lowe is trying to convince studio executives that the machines help sell more movies and says more than a third of his customers rent movies before deciding to buy.

"From the studio executive's perspective, they've always had an issue with the dollar price point," Lowe said. "I think it's been very positive to expanding consumers' interest in film again."

Redbox can still obtain DVDs without a studio's cooperation. The "first sale" legal doctrine gives it the right to use the discs as it sees fit after buying them, just as someone buying a book at a retail store can resell it, lend it or simply throw it away (The law is different for intangible property like movie and music downloads).

"Redbox will employ alternative, proven acquisition channels to provide our customers with the same level of service, convenience and value they've come to expect," the company said in a statement.

When Universal turned its distributors' tap off last year, Redbox just bought the discs at retail outlets and rented them out anyway. The "first sale" doctrine isn't in contention in the case with Universal. Rather, Redbox accuses Universal of breaking antitrust law in commanding distributors to withhold the sales.

With Fox now imposing a delay on wholesale copies, Redbox plans to simply buy discs at regular retailers. But because Redbox makes a little more than \$25 per disc in revenue, buying from retailers for close to that price can eat into profits.

Fox's decision comes nowhere near to bringing Hollywood into consensus on low-cost kiosk renters.

Last month, Sony agreed to sell its movies to Redbox for about \$460 million over five years — far less than it would have to pay at retail outlets — as long as Redbox destroyed previously viewed copies. Because Redbox's price of \$7 is generally lower than what Blockbuster Inc. and others charge for previously viewed movies, the studios worried that fewer people will want to buy new copies at regular prices, typically \$15 or higher.

Telco companies to provide data for broadband map

By JOELLE TESSLER,
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON - The country's biggest phone and cable companies have agreed to hand over information about their broadband networks to help the federal government produce a national map showing where high-speed Internet connections are available across the U.S.

AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications Inc. and Comcast Corp. have told the Commerce Department that they are committed to helping the government "complete the important and difficult task of mapping broadband availability."

Trade groups representing a broad cross-section of the telecommunications sector, including wireless carriers, rural phone and cable companies and the industry giants, are also encouraging their members to cooperate with the Congressionally mandated effort.

"The information that the broadband carriers are now committed to providing is crucial to the creation of the national broadband map," said Lawrence Strickling, head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the arm of the Commerce Department that is overseeing the mapping project.

Congress included up to \$350 million in the economic stimulus bill passed in February to develop a "comprehensive nationwide inventory map of existing broadband service capability and availability in the United States."

The NTIA will be awarding grants to entities in each state to gather data on everything from the availability of different broadband technologies to connection speeds at the local level. The data will be used to produce an interactive national broadband map that Americans everywhere can search to find local broadband services. Regulators and lawmakers also plan to use the data to target broadband investments and shape policy to bring affordable high-speed connections to all corners of the country.

Friday's announcement is the product of weeks of talks among the NTIA, telecom carriers, state officials and public interest groups. And it represents an attempt to balance the needs of the NTIA, which wants to collect data that is detailed enough to produce a robust map, and the concerns of the telecom companies, which don't want to be overburdened by impractical data reporting requirements and don't want to make too much sensitive information available to competitors.

The carriers pledged their cooperation after the NTIA modified its data requirements to address industry concerns.

In one key change, the agency said it is no longer seeking data showing broadband options at the street-address level and will instead accept data showing availability at the census-block level for more densely populated areas. For less densely populated areas, the agency will accept data showing broadband availability for address ranges in each census block.

Thomas Power, chief of staff for the NTIA, noted that census-block-level data is likely to be more reliable than address-level data since it may not be practical to map broadband to every single address in the country. The agency also said it is no longer seeking average revenue data, which telecom companies consider to be proprietary. That data also can be difficult to pinpoint when broadband is sold as part of a bundle of telecom services.

Glenn Reynolds, vice president of policy for the U.S. Telecom Association, said the new data requirements will "facilitate the accurate and timely completion of the broadband map without risking the release of sensitive data."

Investors finally find good news on unemployment



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Aug. 7, 2009 in New York.
(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The economy's most vexing problem, unemployment, is showing the first signs of easing. And Wall Street is celebrating. Major stock indexes barreled higher by more than 1 percent Friday after the government said the nation's unemployment rate unexpectedly fell in July for the first time in 15 months and that employers cut fewer jobs. Bond prices fell, driving yields higher as investors left the safety of Treasurys.

The Labor Department report

handed investors the best evidence yet that the economy could be climbing out of the recession. Analysts widely consider unemployment the biggest obstacle to a recovery in the economy, which is driven by consumer spending. The surprise figures injected new life in a monthlong rally and provided validation for traders who have been betting since March that the economy is healing. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 114 points to cap its fourth straight weekly gain. The Dow is at its highest level since early November.

The government said employers shed 247,000 jobs in July, the fewest in a year. Economists had expected 320,000 lost jobs. The unemployment rate dropped to 9.4 percent from 9.5 percent in June, rather than rising to 9.6 percent as forecast. "It really gave the market the proof that it needed to see," said Burt White, chief investment officer at LPL Financial in Boston.

The report is often the most anticipated bit of economic news each month on Wall Street and nervousness about what it would reveal held

stocks to modest moves most of the week. The exception came Monday when Ford Motor Co. said its monthly sales rose for the first time in nearly two years because the government's cash for clunkers program was drawing customers. That, and good news about manufacturing, construction and banking, sent the Standard & Poor's 500 index over 1,000 for the first time in nine months.

With the pop Friday, the S&P 500 index is up 14.9 percent in only four weeks and 49.4 percent from a 12-year low in early March.

Still, some analysts say the gains have come too quickly and question whether an economic rebound can ever live up to the expectations investors are now setting.

"We've run very fast, very quickly," said Marc Harris, co-head of global research for RBC Capital Markets in New York. "I think we're due to take a breath."

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow rose 113.81, or 1.2 percent, to 9,370.07.

The broader S&P 500 index gained 13.40, or 1.3 percent, to 1,010.48, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 27.09, or 1.4 percent, to 2,000.25. About 2,300 stocks rose on the New York Stock Exchange, while about 700 fell. Volume came to 1.5 billion shares,

compared with 1.4 billion Thursday.

For the week, the Dow added 2.2 percent, the S&P 500 index rose 2.3 percent and the Nasdaq rose 1.1 percent. Meanwhile, bond prices fell as the jobs reading limited demand for the safety of government debt. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.86 percent from 3.76 percent late Thursday.

Financial and retail stocks rallied Friday along with the broader market.

Insurer American International Group Inc. posted its first quarterly profit since 2007. The insurance giant, which is now majority owned by the government, rose \$4.61, or 20.5 percent, to \$27.14.

The jump in retail stocks came a day after many posted lackluster July sales. A drop in unemployment could make consumers feel more confident about making purchases, which could help the recovery along. Their spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity. Macy's Inc. rose 98 cents, or 6.5 percent, to \$15.99.

Analysts say some of the market's recent gains are tied to short-covering, in which investors have to buy stock after having earlier sold borrowed shares in a bet they would fall.

Surprisingly strong jobs data signal turning point

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — It's the clearest sign yet the recession is finally ending: Employers laid off far fewer workers in July, the jobless rate dipped for the first time in 15 months and workers' hours and pay edged upward.

Those are the kind of figures that could give Americans the psychological boost necessary for recovery to take root after the worst recession since World War II.

A net total of 247,000 jobs were lost last month, the fewest in a year and a drastic improvement from the 443,000 that vanished in June.

The Labor Department's report Friday showed that the unemployment rate dropped a notch to 9.4 percent in July, from 9.5 percent the previous month. Together with slight increases in the average workweek and wages, the new figures suggested the economy is in a transition from recession to recovery.

"The worst may be behind us," President Barack Obama declared. "Today, we're pointed in the right direction."

Still, the job market remains shaky. A quarter-million lost jobs are a far cry from the employment growth needed to put the national economy on solid footing. When the economy is healthy, employers need to add a net total of around 125,000 jobs a month just to keep the unemployment rate stable. And to push the jobless rate down to a more normal 5 percent range, it would take much stronger growth — at least 200,000 new jobs a month. Economists say it might take until 2013 to drive down the unemployment rate to 5 percent.

Yet the improvements in July could give some businesses the confidence to hire again — or at least not to lay off more workers. And consumers, less anxious about losing jobs, could respond by spending more freely.

"If people and companies think the worst is behind them — and it probably is — their confidence will be restored," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research. "That confidence can feed on itself."

On Wall Street, the report propelled stocks higher. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 114 points, and

other stock averages also gained.

Analysts had been forecasting bleaker employment figures: more job losses and an increase in the unemployment rate to 9.6 percent.

The White House said the president still expects the rate to hit 10 percent this year. So do many economists and the Federal Reserve.

Analysts say companies will keep cutting jobs probably through the rest of this year, though the pace of layoffs should continue to taper off. The beginnings of recovery could actually push the unemployment rate higher, since far more people would be energized to look for work again.

In fact, the main reason the unemployment rate declined last month was not an inspiring one: Hundreds of thousands of people, some discouraged by their failed job searches, left the labor force. The labor force includes only those who are either employed or are looking for work.

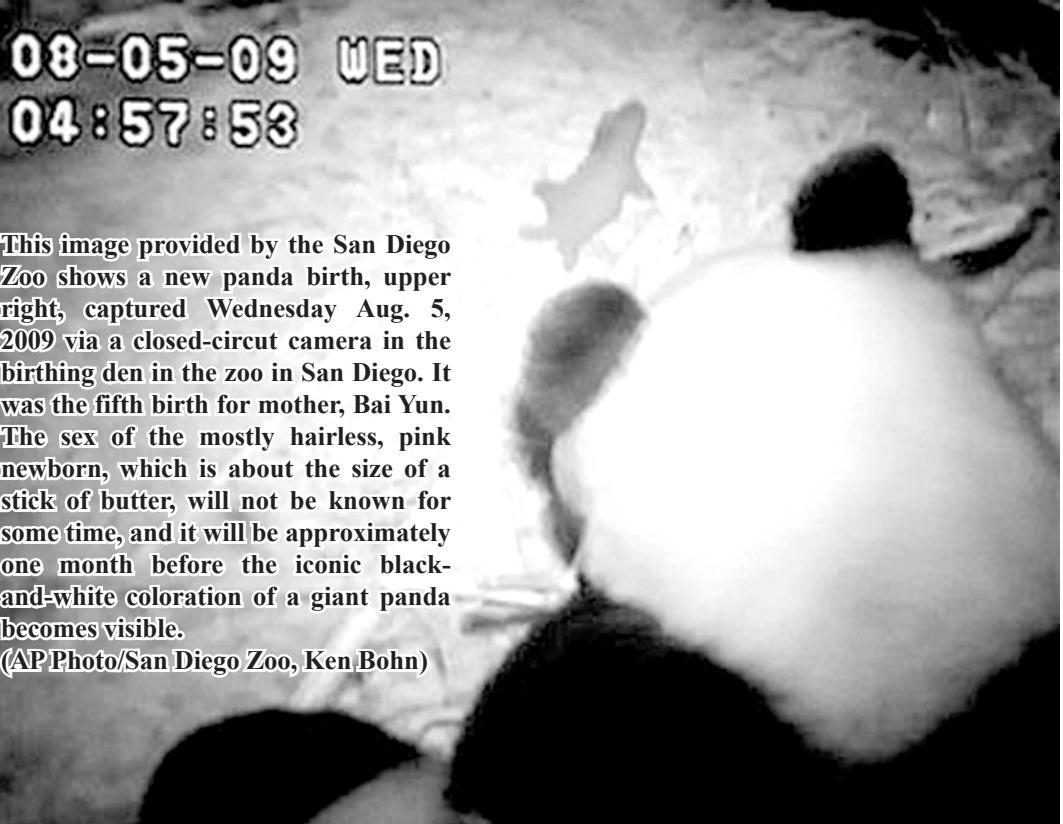
SD Zoo's online Panda Cam crashes due to overload

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Zoo's pandas have become such cyber-stars that their Panda Cam got caught in a popularity crunch.

The zoo says the online camera feed, which monitors 300-pound mom Bai Yun and her 4-ounce, 1-day-old cub, crashed Thursday morning because of increased Internet traffic. The zoo's blogs went down about the same time.

Zoo spokeswoman Jenny Mehlw said Friday the cam was down for about 30 minutes. The blogs have been up and down since the crash and no solution has been found.

Bai Yun gave birth to the cub Wednesday. It's her fifth cub and only the 14th panda in the United States.



Birthplace of Roman emperor found in Italy



In this photo released by the Cittareale Cityhall, and taken on Aug. 5, 2009, archeologists are seen working on the pavement in a sprawling country villa believed by archeologists to be the birthplace of Vespasian, the Roman emperor who built the Colosseum, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northeast of Rome near Cittareale. The 150,000-square-feet (14,000-square-meter) complex was at the center of an ancient village called Falacrino, Vespasian's hometown. Even though there are no inscriptions to attribute it for sure, the villa's location and luxury make it likely it was Vespasian's birthplace, archeologists said Friday, Aug. 7, 2009.

By MARTA FALCONI,
Associated Press Writer

ROME – Archaeologists have unearthed a sprawling country villa believed to be the birthplace of Vespasian, the Roman emperor who built the Colosseum, they said Friday. The 2,000-year-old ruins were found about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northeast of Rome, near Cittareale, lead archaeologist Filippo Coarelli said.

The 150,000-square-feet (14,000-square-meter)

complex was at the center of an ancient village called Falacrino, Vespasian's hometown.

Even though there are no inscriptions to attribute it for sure, the villa's location and luxury make it likely it was Vespasian's birthplace, Coarelli said.

"This is the only villa of this kind in the area where he most certainly was born," the archaeologist said in a telephone interview from Cittareale.

The 1st-century residence featured "a well-preserved huge floor, decorated with luxurious marble coming from the whole Mediterranean area," he said.

"It's clear that such things could only belong to someone with a high social position and wealth. And in this place, it was the Flavians," the dynasty to which Vespasian belonged. The four-year excavation, which also turned up other ruins, including a necropolis burial ground, was carried

out by a group of Italian and British archaeologists.

Vespasian, whose full name was Titus Flavius Vespasianus, brought stability to the empire following turmoil under the extravagant Emperor Nero and a civil war among his successors.

Born in A.D. 9 into a family of low-tier country nobility, Vespasian rose through the army ranks, becoming the general in charge of putting down a Jewish revolt in Judea.

After being acclaimed emperor by his troops in A.D. 69 and eliminating his rivals, Vespasian found Rome facing a deep economic crisis and still recovering from the fire that consumed it under Nero. Using riches plundered from Jerusalem and proceeds from increased taxes, he launched a major public works program and started building the Colosseum — the most ambitious and best-preserved of his projects.

Particle collider: Black hole or crucial machine?

By ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS,
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA – When launched to great fanfare nearly a year ago, some feared the Large Hadron Collider would create a black hole that would suck in the world. It turns out the Hadron may be the black hole.

The world's largest scientific machine has cost \$10 billion, has worked only nine days and has yet to smash an atom. The unique equipment in a 17-mile (27-kilometer) circular tunnel with cathedral-sized detectors deep beneath the Swiss-French border has been assembled by specialists in many countries, with 8,970 physicists eagerly awaiting the startup.

But despite the expense, thousands of physicists around the world, many of whom hope to conduct experiments here, insist that it will work and that it is crucial to mankind's understanding of the universe.

Founder of punk's Mink DeVille dies at 58



FILE - In this Nov. 5, 2002 file photo, U.S. singer Willy DeVille performs on stage in Basel, Switzerland. DeVille, a singer who was founder and principal songwriter of the punk group Mink DeVille, died Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009 in New York City. He was 58.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Markus Stuecklin, File)

NEW YORK — Willy DeVille, who founded the punk group Mink DeVille and was known for his blend of R&B, blues, Dixieland and traditional French Cajun ballads, has died, his publicist said Friday. He was 58. The Oscar-nominated songwriter died at New York's Cabrini Hospital on Thursday of pancreatic cancer, said Carol Kaye at Kayos Productions.

"The rock world has lost another one of its influential pioneers," Kaye said.

Mink DeVille, for which DeVille was the principal songwriter, was billed as one of the most original groups on the New York punk scene after an appearance at the legendary CBGB club in Greenwich Village in the 1970s.

In 1977, the band recorded "Cabretta," a rock and roll/rhythm and blues album with renowned producer Jack Nitzsche. Its featured song, "Spanish Stroll," was a Top 20 hit in Britain. It was followed by the album "Return to Magenta."

Better known in Europe than in the United States, DeVille went solo in 1980 with "Le Chat Bleu." Recorded in Paris and influenced by his admiration for siren Edith Piaf, the album featured "This Must Be the Night" and "Just to Walk That Little Girl Home."

His "Storybook Love," featured in the 1987 movie "The Princess Bride," was nominated for an Academy Award. "Throughout his career, his musical gumbo was always layered with his deliciously gravelly soul-drenched vocals," Kaye said.

Autopsy: Cocaine contributed to Billy Mays' death

TAMPA, Fla. — An autopsy report says cocaine contributed to the death of TV pitchman Billy Mays.

The 50-year bearded TV personality died of a heart attack in his sleep. His wife found him unresponsive June 28 at their condo in Tampa, Fla.

A release from the Hillsborough County medical examiner's office Friday said Mays had last used cocaine days before his death. The report said that although Mays died from heart disease, cocaine use was a contributing cause of death.



In this image released by Discovery Channel, the late TV pitchman Billy Mays is shown in Santa Monica, Calif., on Feb. 8, 2009. On Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 9 p.m. EDT, Discovery Channel will air a one-hour documentary, 'Pitchman: A Tribute to Billy Mays.' Mays had been featured in a 12-part series on the network called 'Pitchmen.'

(AP Photo/Discovery Communications/John Chapple)

Aerosmith guitarist says current tour in question

By CARSON WALKER,
Associated Press Writer

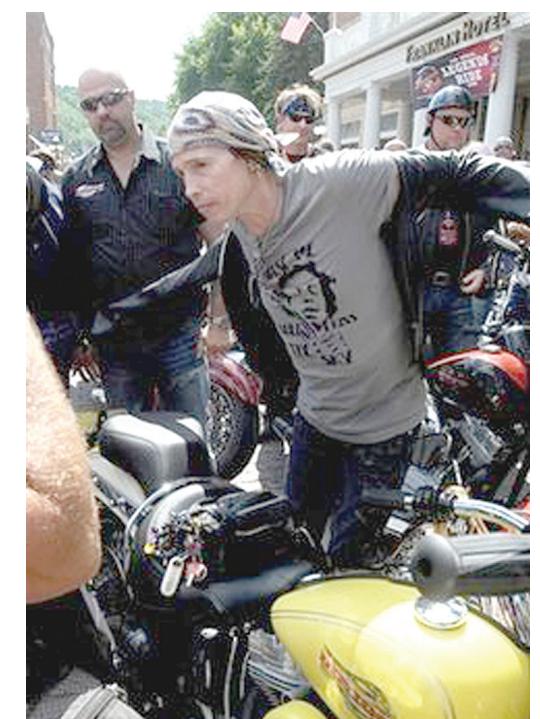
STURGIS, S.D. — Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry said Friday he doesn't know if the band will keep its current tour going because of injuries lead singer Steven Tyler suffered when he fell off a stage. Tyler tumbled Wednesday while performing during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in western South Dakota.

Perry gave an in-studio interview at WXRX-FM in Rockford, Ill., Friday morning on his way back home to Boston. The guitarist didn't say anything specific about Tyler's condition or say where Tyler was. The rock legend suffered head and shoulder injuries in the fall.

"We still don't know if we're going to keep the tour up or what. It's breaking my heart," Perry said in the interview that was also streamed on the Internet.

Aerosmith's next concert was scheduled for Friday in Winnipeg, Manitoba, but was postponed. The band's Web site doesn't mention any other cancellations and calls for comment have gone unanswered.

Tyler, 61, fell several feet while entertaining the crowd by dancing around as the sound crew replaced a fuse that blew during the song "Love in an Elevator" at the Buffalo Chip Campground, which hosted the Wednesday night concert. An amateur video showed him spinning around before falling off the stage.



In this Monday, Aug. 3, 2009 photo, Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler slips into his leather jacket before the start of the Legends Ride, in Deadwood, SD. Tyler, 61, of Aerosmith suffered head, neck and shoulder injuries in a tumble from the stage at a South Dakota concert and joked about the fall as he was put into the helicopter to be taken to a hospital, a concert spokesman said Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009.

(AP Photo/Steve McEnroe)

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$380 - 1/2 day

\$760 - full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



Winners of Int'l. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

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This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

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Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

AP source: Jackson doc gave sedatives before death

LOS ANGELES – Hours before Michael Jackson's death, his doctor administered multiple sedatives along with a powerful anesthetic the pop star used to sleep, according to a law enforcement official. It's a safe combination if done properly; potentially lethal if not.

The official said the type of sedatives Dr. Conrad Murray gave Jackson were benzodiazepines, often used to calm patients before surgery. Murray told investigators the doses were within normal medical guidelines, said the official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Even at acceptable levels, benzodiazepines can intensify how the anesthetic propofol depresses breathing, so strict monitoring and careful dosing is required. The balance can be tricky, a slip-up disastrous.

Murray, who administered the drugs to Jackson in a room at the pop star's rented mansion, told investigators Jackson stopped breathing the morning of June 25 and he was unable to revive him. The doctor is the central figure in what police term a manslaughter investigation, but authorities have not classified him a suspect.

In a written statement Thursday, Murray's lawyer, Ed Chernoff, dismissed as "ridiculous" the official's assertion that Murray gave Jackson multiple drugs.

"We are not going to be responding to any accusations from any unnamed sources," Chernoff said.

As investigators build their case, a central issue is what drugs were in Jackson's system when he died. The official said preliminary toxicology tests detected the propofol,

a drug normally used to render patients unconscious for medical procedures but that Jackson used as a sleep aid. Further analysis will determine whether other drugs were present and in what quantity, allowing the coroner to conclude whether they contributed to the death.

If a twice-delayed final toxicology report reveals an array of drugs, the answer to the simple question "What killed Michael Jackson?" will become a complex medical and legal dispute, especially if authorities can't prove Murray knew everything Jackson was taking. That would complicate any prosecution.

If the results show "a bunch of stuff together, unless one of them is sky high it's going to be really tough to give the cause of death to one drug," said Dr. Richard Clark, director of the division of medical toxicology at the University of California, San Diego.

The Los Angeles County coroner uses a form that allows for three causes of death, plus a fourth line for other contributing factors. Given Jackson's long history with prescription and other drugs, Clark said he expects the coroner's office will conclude Jackson died from "multiple drug toxicity."

Anna Nicole Smith and Heath Ledger were found to have died from lethal combinations of drugs.

Craig Harvey, chief investigator at the coroner's office, declined to discuss any findings from the toxicology report or autopsy. He said delays in releasing the findings were due to "investigative issues."

A discovery of several substances in Jackson's system

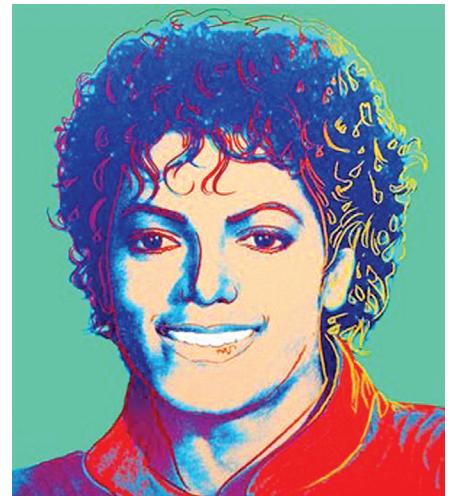
could benefit Murray should he face criminal charges, said Steve Cron, a criminal defense attorney and adjunct professor at Pepperdine University's law school.

"The more drugs in his system, the more deniability (a doctor) has," Cron said, provided Murray could show he didn't know Jackson was on the other drugs.

"But what did the doctor know?" Cron asked. "Did he do his due diligence by trying to find this stuff out, or just look the other way?"

Murray has talked to detectives but has not spoken publicly since Jackson died. Chernoff has said Murray gave Jackson nothing that "should have" killed him and specifically said the physician did not give Jackson the narcotic painkillers Demerol or OxyContin.

The law enforcement official said Demerol was not found in Jackson's home, but the official said a large amount of propofol and several types of benzodiazepines were in a walk-in closet and the room where Jackson slept his last night.



A portrait of the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson, by Andy Warhol is seen in this undated handout photo.

REUTERS/AEG Europe/O2 Arena Handout



A man who asked not to be identified walks into a South Florida Mobile Workforce van to apply for a job at the Community Partnership for the Homeless in Homestead, Fla. Thursday Aug. 6, 2009. The number of newly laid-off Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week, the government said Thursday, a sign that the job market is making gradual improvement.

Associated Press

Surprisingly strong jobs data signal turning point

By JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Finally, a lot fewer workers are hearing the dreaded words, "You're fired." In the clearest sign yet that the recession is ending, layoffs slowed dramatically in July, the jobless rate dipped for the first time in 15 months and workers' hours and pay edged upward.

Those are the kind of figures that could give Americans the psychological boost necessary for recovery to take root after the worst recession since World War II.

A net total of 247,000 jobs were lost last month, the fewest in a year and a drastic improvement from the 443,000 that vanished in June.

The Labor Department's report Friday showed that the unemployment rate dropped a notch to 9.4 percent in July, from 9.5 percent the previous month. Together with slight increases in the average workweek and wages, the new figures suggested the economy is in a transition from recession to recovery.

"The worst may be behind us," President Barack Obama declared. "Today, we're pointed in the right direction."

Still, the job market remains shaky. A quarter-million lost jobs are a far cry from the

employment growth needed to put the national economy on solid footing.

When the economy is healthy, employers need to add a net total of around 125,000 jobs a month just to keep the unemployment rate stable. And to push the jobless rate down to a more normal 5 percent range, it would take much stronger growth — at least 200,000 new jobs a month. Economists say it might take until 2013 to drive down the unemployment rate to 5 percent.

Yet the improvements in July could give some businesses the confidence to hire again — or at least not to lay off more workers. And consumers, less anxious about losing jobs, could respond by spending more freely.

"If people and companies think the worst is behind them — and it probably is — their confidence will be restored," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research. "That confidence can feed on itself."

On Wall Street, the report propelled stocks higher. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 114 points, and other stock averages also gained.

Analysts had been forecasting bleaker employment figures: more job losses and an increase in the unemployment rate to 9.6 percent.

Continued on next page

Senator Martinez tells supporters he's resigning



Republican Sen. Mel Martinez, announces his intention to resign from the Senate during a news conference, in Orlando, Fla., Friday, Aug. 7, 2009. Martinez is leaving the seat more than a year before his term ends.

Associated Press

MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Republican Sen. Mel Martinez, a Cuba native who is staunchly anti-Castro, said Friday he will resign from the Senate as soon as a replacement can be appointed, leaving the seat more than a year before his term ends.

His decision puts Florida Republican Gov. Charlie Crist — who is running to replace Martinez — in charge of filling the seat in the interim so the political balance in the Senate remains unchanged. Democrats and their allies hold 60 seats; Republicans have 40.

Continued page 4

Indonesian police kill two suspected militants

CHRIS BRUMMITT

Associated Press Writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian police hunting the terrorists behind last month's attacks on hotels in the capital raided one house and besieged another Saturday, killing two suspected militants, arresting five and seizing explosives and a car bomb, a senior officer said.

The developments appeared to be the first major break in the investigations into the attacks, which killed nine people and broke a four-year gap in terror strikes in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Throughout the night, local media reported that the alleged mastermind of the bombings and three others in Indonesia since 2002, Malaysian Noordin Mohammad Top, was holed up in one of the houses where gunfire and explosions were still being heard 10 hours after police surrounded it.

Other unconfirmed reports said he could have been one of those killed or arrested.

Continued page 6



In this Jan 28, 2005 file photo, Eunice Kennedy Shriver arrives at the Golden Jubilee Gala of the Viennese Opera Ball at New York's Waldorf Astoria.

Associated Press

Eunice Kennedy Shriver critical at a hospital

BARNSTABLE, Massachusetts (AP) — Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a sister of President John F. Kennedy and a longtime champion for the disabled, was in critical condition Friday at a Massachusetts hospital.

The 88-year-old Shriver's husband, children and grandchildren gathered at her side at Cape Cod Hospital in Barnstable, said family spokesman Stephen Rivers. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the husband of Shriver's daughter, Maria, was also there, said Aaron McLear, a spokesman for the governor.

Shriver has been weakened in recent years by a series of strokes. She lives in Hyannis

Port, near the family compound where her brother, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, has been staying as he undergoes treatment for brain cancer.

Sen. Kennedy left the compound Friday in a golf cart with his wife and dog, headed toward the area where the family sailboat is docked.

Shriver is the fifth of the nine Kennedy children. Edward Kennedy and Jean Kennedy Smith are her sole surviving siblings.

In an recent interview posted on eunicekennedyshriver.org, Sen. Kennedy said his sister has never backed down from the rest of competitive clan.

"She always strived to be the best, and she in many respects has made such an extraordinary difference in the lives of so many people around the world," he said. Shriver is perhaps best known for her work to establish the Special Olympics, inspired in part by the struggles of her mentally disabled sister, Rosemary.

She organized the first Special Olympics in 1968 in Chicago. The two-day event drew more than 1,000 participants from 26 states and Canada. By 2003, the Special Olympics World Summer Games, held that year in Dublin, Ireland, involved more than 6,500 athletes from 150 countries.

Job data

Continued from front page

The White House said the president still expects the rate to hit 10 percent this year. So do many economists and the Federal Reserve.

Analysts say companies will keep cutting jobs probably through the rest of this year, though the pace of layoffs should continue to taper off.

The beginnings of recovery could actually push the unemployment rate higher, since far more people would be energized to look for work again.

In fact, the main reason the unemployment rate declined last month was not an inspiring one: Hundreds of thousands of people, some discouraged by their failed job searches, left the labor force. The labor force includes only those who

are either employed or are looking for work.

If laid-off workers who have given up looking for new jobs or have settled for part-time work are included the unemployment rate would have been 16.3 percent in July. All told, 14.5 million were out of work in July.

Job-seekers are finding it harder to get work because there are so few openings. A record 4.97 million people had been unemployed six months or longer in July. And the average length of unemployment grew to 25.1 weeks, also a record.

For those with jobs, the latest report was more heartening. With companies feeling a bit better about the economy's prospects and their own, employees got to work more hours and saw their paychecks grow. The average work week rose to 33.1 hours, after having fallen to 33 hours in June, the lowest in records dating to 1964. That increase could signal new hiring later on because companies typically ask their existing staff to work longer hours before they decide to hire more people. And employers bumped up wages. Average hourly earnings rose to \$18.56 in July from \$18.53 in June. Average weekly earnings rose to \$614.34.

Those gains raised hopes that consumers, whose spending accounts for the single largest



slice of economic activity, will spend more in the months ahead. In a cautionary note, the Federal Reserve reported Friday that consumers paid down credit cards and reduced other debt in June for the fifth straight month. For months, rising unemployment, declining home values and reduced stock portfolios have led Americans to spend less. In July, the slowdown in layoffs reflected, in part, fewer job cuts in manufacturing, construction, professional and business services and financial activities. Those sectors had been pounded by the collapse of the housing market and the financial crisis.

There also were fewer layoffs in the temporary-help industry, which analysts watch for clues about future hiring. Retailers, though, cut more jobs in July. Those losses were blunted by job gains in government,

education and health services, and in leisure and hospitality. In another encouraging sign, revised job losses for May and June turned out to be less than previously reported.

The deepest job cuts of the recession came in January, when a net total of 741,000 job disappeared — the most in any month since 1949. Since the recession began in December 2007, the economy has lost 6.7 million jobs.

Still, some Fed officials think the jobless rate could rise as high as 10.6 percent by next year. The post-World War II high was 10.8 percent at the end of 1982.

An elevated unemployment rate could become a political liability for Obama when congressional elections are held next year. Ronald Reagan's GOP lost 26 House seats in the midterm elections in 1982.

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Photo by Diane Keijzer



AP Enterprise: Airspeed systems failed on U.S. jets

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

On at least a dozen recent flights by U.S. jetliners, malfunctioning equipment made it impossible for pilots to know how fast they were flying, federal investigators have discovered. A similar breakdown is believed to have played a role in the Air France crash into the Atlantic that killed all 228 people aboard in June.

The discovery suggests the equipment problems are more widespread than previously believed. And it gives new urgency to airlines already scrambling to replace air sensors and figure out how the errors went undetected despite safety systems.

The equipment failures, all involving Northwest Airlines Airbus A330s, were brief and were noticed only after safety officials began investigating the Air France crash — on a Rio de Janeiro to Paris flight — and two other recent in-



In this June 12, 2009 file photo, debris from the missing Air France flight 447 are put on display for the media after being recovered during search operations, at Recife's Air Force base, Brazil.

Associated Press

flight malfunctions. The failures were described by people familiar with the investigation who spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

While a car's speedometer uses tire rotation to calculate speed, an airplane relies on sensors known as Pitot tubes to measure changing air pressure. Computers interpret that information as speed. And while a car with a broken speedometer might be little more than an inconvenience, many airplane control systems rely on accurate speed information to work properly.

Like the fatal Air France flight, the newly discovered Northwest incidents and the two other malfunctions under investigation all involved planes with sensors made by the European electronics giant Thales Corp. The Air France crash called into question the reliability of the sensors and touched off a rush to replace them.

Many companies, however, simply replaced them with another Thales model. As it became clear the problem was more widespread, Airbus and European regulators told companies to replace at least two of the three sensors on each plane with models made by North Carolina-based Goodrich Corp. The planes are allowed to continue flying while the switch is made.

Thales officials declined to comment. The company has previously said its sensors were made to Airbus specifications.

The Northwest incidents were discovered when Delta Air Lines, which merged with Northwest

last year, reviewed archived flight data for its fleet of 32 Airbus A330s, the people close to the inquiry said. All of the incidents took place in the Intertropical Convergence Zone, which extends from 5 degrees north of the equator to 5 degrees south, and all the planes involved landed safely, they said.

Aviation experts said the discovery could provide clues to what caused Air France Flight 447 to crash into the Atlantic en route from Brazil to France on June 1, and what might be done to prevent future tragedies.

French investigators have focused on the possibility that Flight 447's sensors iced over and sent false speed information to the computers as the plane ran into a thunderstorm at about 35,000 feet (10,670 meters).

An important part of the investigation focuses on 24 automatic messages the plane sent during its final minutes. They show the autopilot was not working, but it is unclear whether the pilots shut it off or whether it shut down because of the conflicting airspeed readings.

Three weeks after the Air France crash, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board announced it was investigating two other A330 flights that experienced a loss of airspeed data.

The most recent was on June 23, when a Northwest flight hit rain and turbulence while on autopilot outside of Kagoshima, Japan. According to an NTSB report, speed data began to fluctuate. The plane alerted pilots it was going too fast. Autopilot

and other systems began shutting down, putting nearly all the plane's control in the hands of the pilot, something that usually happens only in emergencies.

In May, a plane belonging to Brazilian company TAM Airlines lost airspeed and altitude data while flying from Miami to Sao Paulo, Brazil. Autopilot and automatic power also shut down and the pilot took over, according to an NTSB report. The computer systems came back about five minutes later.

"These two cases we know were dealt with effectively by the crew, and we think this happened in Air France and maybe wasn't dealt with effectively," said Bill Voss, president of the Flight Safety Foundation in Alexandria, Va., an aviation safety think tank.

Morgan Durrant, a spokesman for the only other U.S. airline that operates A330s, US Airways, said it had not seen similar problems in its 11-plane fleet of the jetliners.

Delta/Northwest and US Airways recently completed replacing older Thales tubes with new Thales tubes. The companies say they are now replacing them with Goodrich tubes.

In June, the Air France pilots' unions urged its members to refuse to fly Airbus A330s and A340s unless their Thales sensors had been replaced.

The Federal Aviation Administration hasn't issued a safety directive, but spokeswoman Laura Brown said the agency hopes to have one soon.

Palin says Obama's health care plan is 'evil'

MARK THIESSEN,
Associated Press Writer
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

In her first communication since stepping down, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin described in an Internet posting Friday that President Barack Obama's plan to overhaul the health care system was evil.

"Who will suffer the most when they ration care? The sick, the elderly, and the disabled, of course," the former Republican vice presidential candidate wrote on her Facebook page.

"The America I know and love is not one in which my parents or my baby with Down Syndrome will have to stand in front of

Obama's 'death panel' so his bureaucrats can decide, based on a subjective judgment of their 'level of productivity in society,' whether they are worthy of health care. Such a system is downright evil," wrote Palin.

An e-mail sent to Palin's spokeswoman to confirm authorship was not immediately returned Friday. Obama, a Democrat, campaigned on a promise of offering affordable health care to all Americans, as the United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for all its citizens.

He has proposed a system that would include government

and private insurers. Republicans say that private insurers would be unable to compete, leaving the country with only a government-run health program. They warn that could leave Americans with little control over their health care.

In the posting, Palin encouraged her supporters to be engaged in the debate. "Nationalizing our health care system is a point of no return for government interference in the lives of its citizens. If we go down this path, there will be no turning back," Palin wrote.

"Let's stop and think and make our voices heard before it's too late," the posting said.



Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin gives her resignation speech during a ceremony in Fairbanks, Alaska, Sunday, July 26, 2009, where Palin turned over power to Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell. Associated Press

Senator Martinez

Continued from front page 1

Crist said he would not appoint himself to replace Martinez. Officials predicted Crist, who faces a Republican primary challenge and a large field of Democratic contenders, would select a "placeholder" for the temporary assignment. Martinez, the only Hispanic Republican in the Senate, disclosed his plans in a statement to supporters and was expected to publicly announce the decision later Friday in Florida, the state he represents. It is home to a large Cuban-American community. The first-term senator already had announced in December that he would not seek re-election in 2010, but he had fended off rumors that he would give up the seat early. In his letter to friends and supporters, obtained by The Associated Press, Martinez says he is stepping down early for personal reasons.

"My priorities have always been my faith, my family and my country, and at this stage in my life, and after nearly 12 years of public service in Florida and Washington, it's time I return to Florida and my family," Martinez wrote. Martinez told reporters at



a news conference he was leaving office of his "own free will."

He added: "There's no impending reason, it's just my desire to move on."

Martinez said the next phase of his life will be in the private sector, but he didn't have any specific plans.

"I will always be grateful to the people of Florida," he said.

In his statement, Martinez said he has always promised constituents that he "wouldn't simply warm a seat."

The note says his resignation will be "effective on a successor taking office to fill out the remainder of my term."

Republican political consultant Ana Navarro said she was saddened by Martinez's decision because she felt he had a lot to offer on immigration and Latin American issues, but that he had been talking about resigning for some time. In the end, she said, Martinez "just found being a lame duck senator in the minority wasn't all that good and was looking forward to starting a new stage of his life."

Martinez, 62, was elected in 2004 after serving as the U.S. secretary for housing and urban development under President George W. Bush. He served as general chairman of the Republican National Committee for 10 months, resigning in October 2007.

At the age of 15, he fled Cuba to the United States as part of a Catholic humanitarian effort called Operation Pedro Pan. Catholic charitable groups provided Martinez, who was alone and spoke virtually no English, a temporary home at two youth facilities. He then lived with two foster families, with whom he remains close, because his parents could not leave the island. He was reunited with his family in Florida several years later. Earlier this year he welcomed the Obama administration's decision to loosen restrictions on travel to Cuba by Americans.

Martinez has denied that he was forgoing a second term because of concerns about difficult re-election prospects in a state won by President Barack Obama last November. But he has struggled to boost public support because of his close ties to former President George W. Bush and his efforts pushing an immigration bill that was unpopular with many Republicans.

His resignation leaves just one Hispanic in the Senate, Democrat Robert Menendez of New Jersey, also home to a large Cuban-American community.

Palin resigned as Alaska governor on July 26 with nearly 18 months left in her term. She cited not only the numerous ethics complaints that had been filed against her also her wish not to be a lame duck after the first-term governor decided not to seek re-election next year.

Palin, popular with conservatives in the Republican party, has said she wants to build a right-of-center coalition, and there is speculation she will seek the presidency in 2012. In the two weeks since she resigned, Palin has made only one public appearance, giving a Second Amendment rights speech last Saturday before a gun owners group in Anchorage.

Palin also has been largely silent before Friday's post. She was a voracious user of the social networking site Twitter, and promised to keep her supporters updated with a new private account after she left office. But that hasn't happened, leaving some of her fans begging for updates in the past two weeks.

Attacks on lone blogger reverberate across Web

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The outage that knocked Twitter offline for hours was traced to an attack on a lone blogger in the former Soviet republic of Georgia — but the collateral damage that left millions around the world tweetless showed just how much havoc an isolated cyberdispute can cause.

"It told us how quickly many people really took Twitter into their hearts," Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University, said Friday.

Tens of millions of people have come to rely on social media to express their innermost thoughts and to keep up with world news and celebrity gossip.

Twitter "is one of those little amusements that infiltrated the mass behavior in some significant ways, so that when it went away, a lot of people really noticed it and missed it."

The attacks Thursday also slowed down Facebook and caused problems for the online diary site LiveJournal. But Twitter, the 140-character-or-less messaging site used by celebrities, businesses and even Iranian protesters, suffered a total outage that lasted several hours.

Those attacks continued Friday from thousands of computers pummeling its servers, said Kazuhiro Gomi, chief technology officer for NTT America Enterprise Hosting Services, which hosts Twitter's service.

Twitter crashed because of a denial-of-service attack, in which hackers command scores of computers toward a single site at the same time to prevent legitimate traffic from getting through. The attack was targeted at a blogger who goes by "Cyxymu" — Cyrillic spelling of Sukhumi, a city in the breakaway territory of Abkhazia in Georgia — on several Web sites, including

Twitter, Facebook and LiveJournal.

But they could have just as well targeted Twitter itself. That's because the effects were the same whether the excess traffic went to the "twitter.com" home page or to the page for Cyxymu at "twitter.com/cyxymu." Same with Facebook and LiveJournal. "A denial of service attack like this one is a very blunt instrument," said Ray Dickenson, chief technology officer at Authentium, a computer security firm. It's as if a viewer who didn't like one show on a television channel decided to "knock out the whole station."

Or like fishing with dynamite: You'll catch something, but the blast will kill dolphins, sharks and other organisms, too.

Just who was behind these attacks is not yet clear, but the

dispute was probably related to the ongoing political conflict between Russia and Georgia. Gomi said the attacking computers were located around the world and the source of the attacks was not known.

The attacks seemed to come in two waves.

The first was a spam campaign consisting of e-mails with links back to posts by Cyxymu. This drove some traffic to the blogger's postings on various social-networking sites, possibly to disparage him as the source of the spam.

The second and more destructive phase consisted of the denial-of-service attack, which attacked the sites' servers by sending it lots of junk requests — presumably to prevent people from reading his viewpoints.

It would have been much harder for the perpetrators of the attacks to isolate



College student Joy Troy, checks a twitter page at the Annenberg School of Communication department at the University of Southern California campus in Los Angeles on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. A hacker attack Thursday shut down the fast-growing messaging service Twitter for hours, while Facebook experienced intermittent access problems.

Associated Press

Cyxymu's accounts on each social-networking site and shut it down. To do that, they would have needed to access his password by guessing it or somehow luring him into giving it out.

The blunt approach was easier — and more damaging.

On Friday, the surge of traffic to Twitter was about as it was Thursday — as much as 20 percent above normal traffic levels. But Gomi said NTT was better able to filter out

the fake traffic, which is why Twitter stayed online.

Dickenson said Twitter was more vulnerable than Facebook and other sites because the company's servers are hosted by a single service provider, something larger Web sites tend to avoid as they grow.

Although having several providers is no guarantee of avoiding harm, Dickenson said doing so at least gives the sites more tools and space to work with once they occur.

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Indonesian police

Continued from front page

Noordin is suspected in all of Indonesia's major terrorist attacks since 2002, including blasts on the resort island of Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people, most of them foreign tourists.

One raid took place close to the capital, Jakarta, early Saturday.

Police chief Gen. Bambang Hendarso Danuri said two suspected militants holding bombs were killed, while three were arrested, one of whom reserved a room in one of the hotels that was used by the terrorists before they attacked last month.



Members of the Indonesian police anti-terror unit move to take position during a raid on a house where suspected militants are holed up in Temanggung, Central Java, Indonesia, Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009. Police hunting for an alleged terror leader suspected of masterminding last month's bombings at two Jakarta hotels surrounded the house and were exchanging gunfire with militants loyal to him inside, police and a witness said.

Associated Press

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He said officers seized explosives and a car bomb that was intended for "a specific target" but gave no more details.

The house was about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from the residence of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The Detik.com Web site, quoting an unnamed police source, said officers believed Yudhoyono's house could have been the target.

Danuri said suspected booby traps remained in the home. Meanwhile, dozens of anti-terror officers slowly moved in on an isolated house in a village in central Java province where they said three or four other militants loyal to Noordin were holed up.

After a 10-hour siege in which the militants and police exchanged gunfire, a loud explosion was heard at the house as dawn broke. Minutes later, officers sent remote-controlled robots into the home to search for bombs, a witness in the village said. Local media reported Noordin was believed to be inside in the house, where gunshots and explosions rang out.

Danuri said two suspected militants were arrested at the house or nearby.

Indonesian police have been met with booby traps and suicide bombers in at least one other raid on a terrorist hide-out, and were approaching the house with extreme caution.

Noordin is a Malaysian citizen who claimed in a video in 2005 to be al-Qaida's representative in Southeast Asia and to be carrying out attacks on Western civilians to avenge Muslim deaths in Afghanistan.

Noordin and his associates are the chief suspects in last month's attacks in Jakarta on the Ritz-Carlton and J.W. Marriott hotels, in which two suicide bombers killed seven people, mostly foreigners.

Indonesian police have arrested more than 200 militants associated with the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network since 2002, including many with ties to Noordin, who they say has narrowly escaped capture several times.

Police have offered a \$100,000 reward for information leading to his capture. Experts say

Noordin is likely being hidden by a small network of sympathizers who might not agree with his tactics, but nevertheless believe they have a duty to shelter him. Java, home to more than half of Indonesia's 220 million people, has long been the focus in the hunt for Noordin and his associates.

In November 2005, Azahari bin Husin, a top Jemaah Islamiyah bomb maker, was fatally shot by counterterrorism forces in east Java. Sariyah Jabir, another explosives expert, was killed in April 2006 during a raid on a militant hide-out in central Java.

Prosecutors say Noordin orchestrated the 2002 bombings on Bali, an earlier attack on the J.W. Marriott Hotel in 2003, a blast outside the Australian Embassy in 2004, and triple suicide bombings on restaurants in Bali in 2005.

Al-Qaida is believed to have helped fund the first three attacks.

Together, the four strikes killed more than 240 people, many of them Western tourists.

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Pakistani Taliban head's death a blow to militants

ISHTIAQ MAHSUD

NAHAL TOOSI,

Associated Press Writers

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's Taliban chief was killed by a CIA missile strike, a militant commander confirmed — a severe blow to extremists threatening the stability of this nuclear-armed nation.

Pakistani officials vowed Friday to dismantle the rest of the network run by Baitullah Mehsud regardless of who takes over, a move seen as essential to crippling the violent Islamists behind dozens of suicide attacks and beheadings in the country.

Already, the Taliban were holding a "shura" council in the lawless, rugged South Waziristan tribal region to choose Mehsud's successor, intelligence officials and militants told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information. It was unclear when they might reach a decision.

Pakistan considered the al-Qaida-linked Mehsud its No. 1 internal threat. He was suspected in the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and many other assaults. He claimed responsibility for some, including an audacious attack on a police academy in March that killed 12 people. The U.S. has relied heavily on the CIA-controlled missile strikes to take out militants in Pakistan's wild northwest. Washington had a \$5 million bounty on Mehsud, whom it considered a threat to the

Afghan war effort.

Islamabad officially protests the missile strikes, although many analysts suspect the two countries coordinate on the drone-fired attacks. Mehsud was killed with one of his two wives Wednesday in his South Waziristan stronghold, his militant aide said.

"I confirm that Baitullah Mehsud and his wife died in the American missile attack in South Waziristan," Taliban commander Kafayat Ullah told AP by telephone.

Pakistani leaders said they were getting the same reports and were reasonably sure of their accuracy but did not have forensic evidence such as a body for irrefutable confirmation. Final confirmation could take days or weeks.

A tribesman who spoke on condition his name not be used said the missile struck Mehsud's father-in-law's

house. He said a doctor was treating the Taliban leader there for a kidney ailment. The tribesman said he attended Mehsud's funeral. Fueled by his alliances with al-Qaida and other militant outfits, Mehsud rose to the peak of Pakistan's militant pyramid thanks largely to his brutality and Pakistan's unwillingness to take him on. A 30-something son of a potato farmer who once taught physical fitness, Mehsud was soft-spoken but brash enough to once hold a news conference.

"It is the top desire of my life to obtain martyrdom, I have strong feelings for the martyrdom in my heart," he said. "To be a martyr, to be wounded or arrested — we consider it as a sacrifice."

Three Pakistani intelligence officials said the most likely successor was Mehsud deputy Hakimullah. Two other possibilities were



In this made from video taken on May 24, 2008, Pakistan's top Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud, right, talks to the media in Kotkai, a village in the Pakistani tribal area along the Afghan border. According to Kafayat Ullah, a Taliban commander and aide to Mehsud, Friday Aug. 7, 2009, Mehsud, who led a violent campaign of suicide attacks and assassinations against the Pakistani government, was killed in a U.S. missile strike on Wednesday Aug. 5, 2009.

Associated Press

Azmat Ullah and Waliur Rehman. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity. Interior Minister Rehman Malik also named Qari Hussain, known for training suicide bombers.

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Georgia's president Saakashvili criticizes Russian 'invaders'

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press Writer

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili defiantly marked the first anniversary of his country's war with Russia, denouncing Russian troops who control two Georgian regions as "invaders."

In a heated speech Friday to a rain-drenched crowd of thousands in Gori, Saakashvili vowed Georgia's neighbor would never again regain control of his small country, his voice sometimes a growl and sometimes rising to a near shout. It was a marked contrast to the day's otherwise quiet and low-key war commemorations.

"Our future will not be written in a hostile, far away, frigid capital," Saakashvili said, referring to his frequent contention that Moscow aims to control or occupy all of Georgia, which it ruled for decades during the Soviet period.

"We want to defeat the invaders, not by another war. Obviously not. We want to defeat them by peacefully

strengthening our democratic institutions, by constantly developing our economy, by getting closer and closer to the European Union," he said in the city heavily damaged by the war. Saakashvili's push for western integration deeply angers Moscow.

The brief war killed at least 390 people and left a legacy of animosity between leaders and fears of more fighting. About 26,000 people displaced by the conflict still live in temporary housing in Georgia, many on less than \$3 a day, according to aid group World Vision.

For five days Georgian troops fought to rein in the breakaway region of South Ossetia and push back advancing Russian forces. Russian troops and tanks backed the separatist forces against what they called an unprovoked Georgian assault.

Fighting ended with an EU-brokered agreement that left South Ossetia cut off from the rest of Georgia by military checkpoints. Russia, which recognizes South Ossetia as independent, maintains thousands of troops there to



Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, center, speaks in Gori, near the de-facto border with Georgia's breakaway region of South Ossetia, some 32 kilometers (20 miles) south of the South Ossetian capital Tskhinvali, Friday, Aug. 7, 2009. Saakashvili defiantly marked the first anniversary of his country's war with Russia on Friday, denouncing Russian troops who control two Georgian regions as "invaders."

Associated Press

support local forces, which have widely been accused of killing ethnic Georgian civilians, burning their houses and driving them at gunpoint from the region.

"We feel there is a great danger in the current situation," Tbilisi resident Lia Tabukashvili said while visiting a memorial to war victims on parliament's steps. "We can only place our faith in God and the international community."

Georgian soldiers watch the tense boundary line from a few hundred meters (yards) away, and European Union monitors use binoculars to survey the South Ossetian side, which Russia refuses to allow them to enter.

Both sides have claimed the other fired mortars or shot at them in recent weeks. On Friday, Georgian Interior Ministry spokesman Shota Utiashvili said five civilians in the border village of Koshki were kidnapped by armed men who crossed over from South Ossetia. Russian newsagencies cited South Ossetia leader Eduard Kokoity as saying the men had inadvertently crossed into the province and were to be released immediately.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev defended his decision to go to war last year. "Each time I remember these events, I scroll the tape backward, as they say, and realize that on the one hand, we had no other choice," he

said in a statement released by the Kremlin.

Tbilisi closed its main avenue, Rustaveli Prospekt, for a photo exhibition chronicling Moscow's Soviet-era control, or occupation, of Georgia. The country observed a minute of silence and church bells tolled.

In the hard-hit city of Gori, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Tbilisi, several hundred people formed a human flag display at the ruins of a medieval fortress. Residents later held hands in a human chain through the city of 50,000, which was bombed when the war spread into Georgia proper from South Ossetia.

Earlier in Tbilisi the president attended a wreath-laying ceremony, where a 2-year-old boy in a tiny military uniform stood by the grave of his father Emzar Tsilosani, who was killed in the war.

"He will be a soldier, like his father," said widow and mother Teona Tsilosani. "But Emzar is not coming back — that's what Russia brought upon us with this war they created."

Both Russia and South Ossetia contend the war began with a Georgian artillery assault on Tskhinvali, and that Moscow sent troops to protect peacekeeping forces and civilians. They claim Saakashvili retains ambitions to seize South Ossetia by

force.

Georgia says it launched the barrage to repel Russian tanks and troops that had begun an invasion before dawn. Saakashvili says Russia wants to drive him from power because Moscow resents his efforts to bring Georgia into NATO and the EU.

South Ossetia leader Kokoity on Friday claimed Georgian forces had massacred civilians on a road as they fled the Tskhinvali attack.

"The refusal of Georgia or its Western supporters to even acknowledge this massacre is proof of the moral failure by the leaders responsible for last year's war," he said in a statement.

In Tskhinvali, hundreds of South Ossetians ambled along the province's unpaved paths to the city's central square late Tuesday for a midnight vigil. String ensembles performed somber works to accompany video footage from the war that was displayed on a large screen.

Addressing about 1,000 onlookers in front of the war-damaged government building, Kokoity said "Ossetia will never forget the Russian soldiers and their brave deeds to save the Ossetian people." In Moscow, Kremlin youth groups gathered near a central cathedral in a show of support.

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Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs released in UK

ROBERT BARR, Associated Press Writer
LONDON (AP) — Ronnie Biggs, the last prisoner from Britain's "great train robbery" and once a high-living fugitive in Rio de Janeiro, has gained his freedom but remained near death in his hospital bed. Weakened by pneumonia, unable to speak and enfeebled by a series of strokes, Biggs laboriously tapped out on a spelling board that he was "very happy" that he had been given a compassionate release from custody. "It was very emotional when the guards left," his son Michael said. The change of status

came Friday, a day before Biggs' 80th birthday and the 46th anniversary of the robbery, labeled "the heist of the century." British officials saw Biggs as an unrepentant thief who lived it up on his share of the gang's haul from 125 mail sacks holding 2,631,684 pounds, equivalent to at least 40 million pounds (\$68 million) today. But to others he was, if not a lovable rogue, then at least someone who posed no threat to society and was unlikely to scale a 25-foot (seven meter) wall as he did to escape from prison in 1965. "It would be ridiculous, even for this government, to leave an old man to die in prison.

He is hardly a threat to anyone," said Nick Bowles, 27, from south London. "I'm sure that in five years his life will be a huge Hollywood hit," said Julian Rache, 37, from France. "As a robber he had a beautiful story, but what a sad way to go." Unionized train drivers, mindful that railwayman Jack Mills never fully recovered from being bashed on the head with an iron bar, thought Biggs should die in custody. Biggs' lawyer argued he has hardly received a real reprieve. "This man is ill, he's going to die, he is not going to any pub or going to Rio, he is going to stay in hospital,"



Michael Biggs, son of Ronnie Biggs, one of Britain's most notorious criminals, holds up his father's release papers, outside the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, in Norwich, England, Friday Aug. 7, 2009, where Biggs is being treated for pneumonia. Associated Press

said Biggs' lawyer, Giovanni Di Stefano. Justice Secretary Jack Straw, who had previously ruled out release for a man who was "wholly unrepentant," also seemed to feel that it no longer mattered. "His condition is not expected to improve," Straw said in a statement. Michael Biggs hopes to move his father to a nursing home, after he undergoes some minor surgery. Biggs was part of a gang that robbed a Glasgow-to-London mail train in August 1963, in what was called the "heist of the century."



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Red Sox cut ineffective Smoltz

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — John Smoltz may have thrown the last pitch of his storied career.

The Boston Red Sox cut the struggling Smoltz on Friday, a day after the New York Yankees sent the 42-year-old righty to yet another early exit.

Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein traveled down to New York to personally tell Smoltz that the team had designated him for assignment. The move gives Boston 10 days to trade, release or send Smoltz to the minors.

"When he woke up today, he said, 'How can I help the team win?'" Epstein said. "But he's a realist and understands the results have not been what we were looking for."

After more than two decades with Atlanta, Smoltz signed with the Red Sox in January,



hoping he could recover from surgery on his right shoulder. After eight starts, the numbers were not pretty for a pitcher with Hall of Fame credentials:

2-5 with an 8.32 ERA.

Boston made the move while in a three-way race with the Yankees and Tampa Bay, and with Smoltz still searching for answers after one of the worst outings of his career.

"Pretty humbled right now, the way things have gone,"

Smoltz said Thursday night, after the Yankees chased him in the fourth inning of a 13-6 romp. "Time may not be on my side if this continues."

He was right. The eight-time All-Star was not at his locker at Yankee Stadium, though his No. 29 jersey hung in his cubicle and his shower flip-flops were in his stall.

Continued on page 13

WNBA Roundup

Dream wins fourth straight, downs Stars

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Atlanta Dream notched its first four-game winning streak in its brief WNBA history by beating the San Antonio Silver Stars 92-84 on Thursday. After a woeful debut season in 2008, the Dream is now equal second in the Eastern Conference.

Chamique Holdsclaw scored 10 of her 21 points in the fourth quarter for Atlanta, while Iziane Castro Marques added 17 points.

Becky Hammon led San Antonio with 26 points.

Sparks 79, Storm 75, OT

In Los Angeles, Noelle Quinn scored eight of her career-high 23 points in overtime to lift Los Angeles over Seattle.

The Storm led 72-66 with 3:18 left in overtime, but the Sparks used a 12-0 spree to seize control. Quinn scored eight points during that burst, including a 3-pointer that gave Los Angeles the lead with a minute left.

L.A.'s Candace Parker added season highs of 18 points and 13 rebounds.

Lauren Jackson scored 21 points before fouling out for Seattle.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Andre Ethier, right, is mobbed by teammates after hitting a walk-off three-run home run against the Atlanta Braves during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. Associated Press

NL Roundup

Dodgers get walkoff 3-run HR, beat Braves

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andre Ethier hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning, providing a stunning climax to the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-4 win over the Atlanta Braves in the National League on Thursday. Ethier went long off Atlanta closer Rafael Soriano to record his major league-leading fifth walkoff hit of the season.

With the Dodgers trailing 4-2, Juan Pierre led off the ninth with an infield hit. Rafael Furcal's hit-and-run single sent Pierre to third, and Ethier drove a pitch over the right-field fence for his 23rd homer of the season. He raised his team-leading RBI total to 72 — five shy of his career best.

Soriano had his third blown save in 19 attempts as the Dodgers improved their best record in the majors to 67-42.

Phillies 3, Rockies 1

In Philadelphia, Cliff Lee pitched seven impressive innings in his home debut, steering Philadelphia past Colorado.

Lee allowed just one run and striking out nine in his first home start since the Phillies acquired him from Cleveland last week.

Paul Bako hit a tiebreaking homer for Philadelphia, which opened a seven-game lead in the NL East.

Padres 8, Mets 3

In San Diego, the hosts drove another nail into New York's playoff hopes.

Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in a four-run third inning and drove in three runs.

Continued on page 12

Harrington stays on top

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AKRON, Ohio — Padraig Harrington and Tiger Woods were side-by-side on the practice range, warming up for another round at the Bridgestone Invitational, their routines nothing alike.

Woods, a four-time winner on the PGA Tour this year, was conventional in his warmup, working his way from a wedge to a driver.

Harrington, winless since the PGA Championship a year ago, took a detour when he put the driver in his hand. He took a few swings using only his left arm, followed by a few swings using only his right arm. Then, he would take three swings without stopping, stepping into his shot on the third swing.

He is always tinkering, always trying to improve.

And as he showed Friday in the Bridgestone Invitational, the three-time major champion knows what he's doing.

Despite a cautious approach to make sure he didn't waste an opening-round 64, Harrington played steady at Firestone for a 1-under 69 that gave him a one-shot lead over Tim Clark going into the weekend at this World Golf Championship.

"I'm obviously pleased," said Harrington, who was at 7-under 133. "I shot a good score yesterday — put me up there — and it's nice to shoot a reasonable score to back it up. Break 70 on the weekend a few more times and I should be doing OK."

It was his first time since going 67-68 in his middle rounds at the Houston Open in April that Harrington has put together consecutive rounds under par.

"I've found what I'm looking for," Harrington said. "It's not that I have what I was looking for, I've found what I was looking for. That's freed up my mind to go back to working on the important things — the scoring, the short game and my mental game."

Woods, a six-time winner at Firestone, was among 20 players within five shots of the lead, although he found

himself in a peculiar spot after an even-par 70. He was tied for 13th, the first time after any round at Firestone he has been out of the top 10.

He was at 2-under 138, the same score he had in 2007 when he went on to win by eight.

"You just have to be very patient," said Woods, coming off a victory last week in the Buick Open with the final major of the year looming next week at Hazeltine. "This course is playing like it normally does, and it's very similar to a major championship. A good number this week is going to be somewhere in the high 60s, and more than likely you can move up the leaderboard."

Scott Verplank went 35 holes without a bogey until hitting into the trees on the 18th hole and dropping a shot for a 69, leaving him alone in third at 135. Steve Stricker (69), Jerry Kelly (65) and Prayad Marksaeng of Thailand (70) were at 4-under 136, with big-hitting Alvaro Quiros of Spain also shooting a 65 to lead the group at 137.

Phil Mickelson, playing for the first time since his wife's surgery for breast cancer last month, made a few great escapes from the rough and put together a 69 to finish six shots behind Harrington.

Except for his three majors that he won with Sunday rallies, Harrington had not been atop the leaderboard anywhere in the world since the Irish Open more than two years ago. He cares only about keeping in the mix, with an eye toward the back nine Sunday.

But this was different.

The Irishman, never satisfied with his swing, has spent most of the season on his mechanics, to the point that his scores have suffered. He once missed five straight cuts, and he has yet to finish in the top 10 since his season-opener at Abu Dhabi.

Equipped with the lead, he found himself playing conservatively, not wanting to waste such a good start.

"I was more worried about my misses rather than having that confident attitude and just

a bit more free flowing, and going after a few more pins," Harrington said. "But you've got to make some birdies. My short game has been good enough, so I probably should be a little bit more aggressive over the weekend."

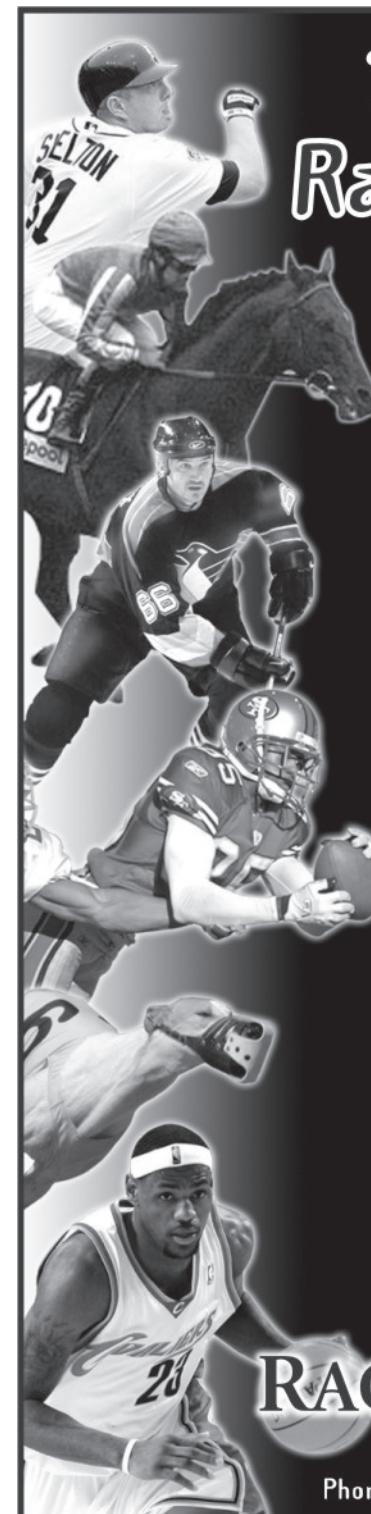
He wasted some opportunities on a mild morning in northern Ohio, as did so many others. The course began to get firm under an afternoon sun, which makes it tougher to stay in the fast-running fairways or get it close to the hole.

Clark closed with two big par saves to earn a spot in the final group on a Firestone course that he always felt was too big for a guy who was short but straight off the tee. The firm conditions have been to his advantage.



Padraig Harrington, from Ireland, tips his hat on the 18th green after completing his second round in the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Friday, Aug. 7, 2009, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. Harrington stands at 7-under par.

Associated Press



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AL Roundup

On the board: Yanks earn first win against Red Sox



Boston Red Sox manager Terry Francona, left, takes the ball from pitcher John Smoltz after Smoltz gave up a three-run home run to New York Yankees' Melky Cabrera in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Melky Cabrera and Jorge Posada hit three-run homers as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox for the first time in nine games this season, 13-6 on Thursday.

Johnny Damon and Mark Teixeira also connected for New York, which ended a nine-game skid against Boston dating to last season. It was the Yankees' longest drought in the rivalry since they lost 17 straight from Oct. 3, 1911, to July 1, 1912.

Damon's third-inning shot was his third in three days,

Cabrera and Posada went deep in New York's eight-run fourth and Teixeira delivered the final blow with his 28th homer leading off the seventh.

Despite a career-high seven walks, Joba Chamberlain (8-2) lasted five innings to win his fourth consecutive start. Casey Kotchman hit a two-run homer in his first start for Boston and Dustin Pedroia also went deep.

The American League East-leading Yankees increased their lead over Boston in the AL East to 3½ games with

their fourth consecutive win. Royals 8, Mariners 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Bruce Chen won in the major leagues for the first time since 2005 and Billy Butler hit a two-run homer in a five-run first inning as Kansas City downed Seattle.

Chen, who had lost his past 13 decisions, earned his first victory since Oct. 2, 2005, while with Baltimore. Chen (1-6) held the Mariners to two runs, despite giving up 10 hits and a walk in 6 2-3 innings, matching his longest outing this season.

Butler's home run was his season-high 13th and he had his team-leading 14th multi-RBI game. The first inning included a two-run double by Mark Teahen and a run-scoring double by Yuniesky Betancourt.

Indians 2, Twins 1

At Cleveland, Trevor Crowe hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning as Cleveland edged Minnesota.

Crowe's slicing line drive into the left-center gap off Nick Blackburn (8-6) scored Travis Hafner from second base as Cleveland won for the ninth time in 13 games. The switch-hitting Crowe has batted .375 with four RBIs in six games since his recall from Triple-A Columbus. Orlando Cabrera had two hits, extending his hitting streak to

a career-high 16 games for Minnesota, which has lost five of six after a four-game winning streak. Cabrera is 10 for 20 since he was acquired from Oakland on Friday.

Tigers 7, Orioles 3

At Detroit, Brandon Inge hit a two-run homer in a four-run second inning, and Rick Porcello didn't give up a hit until the fifth as Detroit beat Baltimore.

Porcello (10-7) has allowed only three runs in his last two starts after allowing 19 runs in his previous four. He went 5 2-3 innings in this one, allowing only four hits.

David Hernandez (3-4) gave up five runs and seven hits, needing 81 pitches to get through three innings. Brian Bass followed and gave up two runs in three innings.

The Tigers hit for the cycle as a team in a span of five at-bats in the second inning to help them take a 4-0 lead that they would never relinquish.

Angels 9, White Sox 5

At Chicago, Vladimir Guerrero hit his first home run in more than a month and Bobby Abreu, Jeff Mathis and Erick Aybar also went deep to lead the Angels past Chicago.

Jayson Nix had a three-run homer for Chicago, which fell two games behind Detroit in the AL Central. The White Sox had opened their

current homestand with five victories in six games against the Angels and New York Yankees, the league's two best teams.

Ervin Santana (4-6) settled down after a rocky start to last six innings for the Angels, who avoided their first three-game losing streak since June.

Rangers 6, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Michael Young hit his 18th homer of the season and Tommy Hunter pitched seven solid innings as Texas beat Oakland to avoid its first four-game sweep since April 2008.

Hank Blalock added his 21st homer, and David Murphy and Andrew Jones each drove in a run for the Rangers, who remained 4½ games behind the Los Angeles Angels in the AL West.

Hunter (4-2) gave up three runs — two earned — and three hits with a pair of walks.

Nomar Garciaparra, Rajai Davis and Scott Hairston each hit RBI doubles for the Athletics, who managed a run off C.J. Wilson in the ninth before he finished for his 14th save.

In other AL games it was, Cleveland 2, Minnesota 1; Detroit 7, Baltimore 3; L.A. Angels 9, Chicago White Sox 5; Texas 6, Oakland 4; N.Y. Yankees 13, Boston 6; and Kansas City 8, Seattle 2.

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NL Roundup

Continued from page 10

The Padres took a 7-0 lead en route to beating the Mets for the sixth straight time at home.

Diamondbacks 11, Pirates 6, 12 innings

In Pittsburgh, Arizona piled on five runs in the third extra inning, winning a fifth straight game by overcoming Pittsburgh.

Alex Romero, with his fourth hit of the game, got a double with the bases loaded in the 12th, driving in two runs. A sacrifice fly, an RBI single and a run on a throwing error made certain of an Arizona win, after it had trailed 6-3.

The Pirates have lost five

straight.

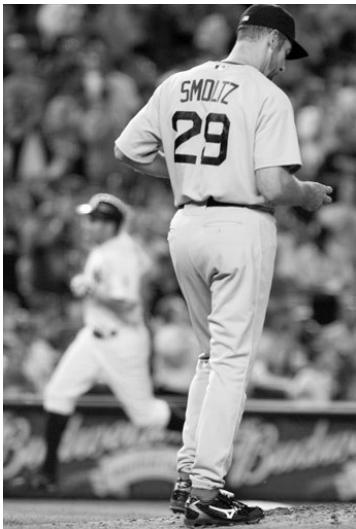
Nationals 12, Marlins 8

In Washington, the hosts rallied from a six-run deficit to beat Florida and extend their unlikely winning streak.

Ryan Zimmerman finished a double short of the cycle for the Nationals, who broke an 8-8 tie with four runs in the eighth inning. Ronnie Belliard got the tiebreaking single in the eighth inning as lowly Washington completed a series sweep and won their season-best fifth straight game.

In other NL games it was, Washington 12, Florida 8; Philadelphia 3, Colorado 1; Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 6, 12 innings; San Diego 8, N.Y. Mets 3; and L.A. Dodgers 5, Atlanta 4q.

Continued from page 10



"He's certainly not a quitter, that's one thing he's not," Epstein said. "So it never entered his mind to stop pitching."

Said Red Sox manager Terry Francona: "I think we appreciated what his pedigree and past was, and respected it a lot."

"Just got to a point where we needed to help our team to be better," he said.

Boston began the day in second place in the AL East, with a rotation minus injured Daisuke Matsuzaka and Tim Wakefield.

The Red Sox made a series of roster moves. They also designated lefty reliever Billy Traber for assignment, recalled right-hander Junichi Tazama from Triple-A Pawtucket and claimed infielder Chris Woodward off waivers from Seattle.

Smoltz started with two scoreless innings against the Yankees before fading. They tagged him for eight runs on nine hits and four walks in 3 1-3 innings.

"Even though he got hit, there was some cleanliness starting to appear," Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek said.

At 212-152 with 154 saves and a 3.32 ERA, Smoltz compiled a glittering resume after making his major league debut in 1988.

Along with aces Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, Smoltz helped Atlanta to its only World Series championship, won a Cy Young Award and is the only pitcher with more than 200 victories and 150 saves.

Maddux retired after last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Glavine, like

Maddux in his 40s and a 300-game winner, was abruptly cut by Atlanta in June before making his major league return.

Smoltz was one of the best big-game pitchers of his era, going 15-4 with four saves and a 2.65 ERA in the postseason. It was precisely his ability to win those clutch games that prompted the Red Sox to sign him to a \$5.5 million, one-year contract, even though they knew he wouldn't be able to play for much of the season.

Smoltz worked his way back through the minors, and made his Red Sox debut on June 25 at Washington. The last-place Nationals hit him hard and, except for occasional flashes, Smoltz never got into a prolonged rhythm.

Seeming intent on throwing hard and inside, Smoltz started well Thursday night against the Yankees. In the first inning, he got Derek Jeter on a grounder and struck out Johnny Damon and Alex Rodriguez.

"I think he still has some really good stuff. He ran into a really hot team last night," Damon said Friday. "I hope there's more baseball left for him."

The Yankees chased Smoltz with an eight-run burst in the fourth. Melky Cabrera hit a three-run homer, and Smoltz handed the ball to Francona after an intentional walk to Rodriguez.

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Misión OEA para Honduras incluirá cancilleres Argentina y México

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - La OEA enviará el martes a Honduras a una misión diplomática integrada, entre otros, por los cancilleres de Argentina, Jorge Taiana, y de México, Patricia Espinosa, en un nuevo intento por desatrancar la crisis derivada del derrocamiento del presidente Manuel Zelaya.

La misión estará conformada también por los ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de Canadá, Peter Kent; de Costa Rica, Bruno Stagno; de Jamaica, Kenneth Baugh y de República Dominicana, Carlos Morales, dijo la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) en un comunicado.

Con ellos viajará el secretario general del organismo, José Miguel Insulza, en una misión para la que no se avizoran

posibilidades de éxito luego de que el jueves el Gobierno de facto presidido por Roberto Micheletti dijera que se mantendrá en su posición de no permitir el regreso de Zelaya.

El mandatario fue expulsado del país el 28 de junio a punta de fusil por militares, tras días de tensión política a raíz de su insistencia en realizar una consulta popular que abriría el paso a la reelección presidencial.

Esto fue visto por sus detractores como un intento de perpetuarse en el poder, influenciado por su aliado el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez.

La misión de la OEA -que suspendió a Honduras de la organización por quebrantar el orden democrático- intentará



Partidarios del depuesto mandatario Manuel Zelaya marchan por las calles de Tegucigalpa, 6 ago 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

reflotar el acuerdo de San José, una propuesta del presidente costarricense, Oscar Arias, que incluye la restitución de Zelaya al frente de un gobierno

de unidad.

El Gobierno de facto encabezado no ha rechazado totalmente la última versión del plan de Arias, pero se niega

siquiera a considerar el regreso de Zelaya, a quien acusa de violaciones a la Constitución y otros cargos.



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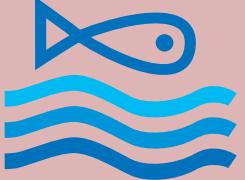
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